



BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1942

T. P. EDWARDS, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H. (Cantab.)

L. A. STROUD, D.P.A., M.R. San. Inst.

TO:- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 20th Annual Report dealing with the health and vital statistics of the Borough of Wrexham, for the year 1942.

Owing to the interests of national security, certain statistical information has to be omitted. There has been a very slight decrease in the population.

It will be noticed that the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases under all the sub-headings, is much less than it was in the previous year, and there has also been a reduction in the number of deaths from notifiable diseases. The chief infectious disease causing deaths is Pneumonia. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a very marked diminution in the number of cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and it does appear that the epidemic which has been prevalent throughout the country during the last three years, is showing definite signs of cessation as far as our area is concerned. The number of cases of Diphtheria is very much less than it was in the previous years and this is co-incident with a campaign of immunisations which was put into force during the last three months but which was not completed at the end of the year.

In the year 1941, 427 children were immunised but during the year 1942, this figure was increased to 1,449 of which 1,027 were school children, and in addition to this, over 700 school children did not complete their course of immunisation during the year, but most of these were dealt with in the early weeks of 1943.

When this campaign commenced, we immunised the children at the Clinic, and on one occasion as many as 217 children attended with their parents at 1 Grosvenor Road, on one Saturday morning, and it was then decided to go round the schools as had been done in the past, and thus relieve the work in the Clinic.

One of the chief events of the year, was the opening of a second British Restaurant in Spring Lodge and arrangements are now being made for the opening of a third one in the centre of the town in Town Hill.

In reference to nutrition, arrangements were being made at the end of the year for a scheme of feeding of the school children at the school canteen, and in the individual schools. This scheme was put into force in 1943 and in its completed form, will include certain of the county elementary and secondary schools situated within easy distance for the transport of the food to the Schools from the Central kitchen at Whitegate. One must appreciate the importance of this co-operation between two authorities. This has not always occurred in the past, and one must acknowledge that a successful administration in Public Health should not be influenced by any limitations of frontier.

In my last report, I referred to the opening of the first War Time Nursery in the Borough at Abbotsfield, and it is satisfactory to note that this has been a success and that it has been found necessary for a new unit to be constructed in Holt Road in the immediate vicinity of two large housing estates.

There have been no changes in the Staff during the year.

T. P. Edwards

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres).....	2,916
Rateable Value of the Borough (31st March, 1943).....	£165,408
Sum presented by a penny rate.....	£630.
Corporation Houses.....	1,775

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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate).....	243	207	450
Live Births (Illegitimate).....	25	26	51
<u>Total ...</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>501</u>

Birth Rate..... 17.5 England & Wales..... 15.8
Total No. of Stillbirths..... 20

DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total.
	171	156	327
Death Rate.....,11.4			England & Wales..... 11.6

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:-

1. From Sepsis.....	2.
From Other Causes.....	+
<u>Total</u>	<u>2</u>

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births..... 3.8.
England and Wales..... 2.01.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate.....	17	12	29
Illegitimate.....	4	1	5
<u>Total</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>34</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Legitimate.....	57.9
Illegitimate.....	98.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>67.9 Eng. and Wales... 49.0</u>

The number of infant deaths has shown a diminution during the year and the rate is substantially reduced though it is still above that for the whole of England and Wales. The rate for England and Wales has been stated to be the lowest on record and has shown

a progressive diminution extending over many years, but the rate for our area, shows very marked fluctuations from year to year.

There were 11 neo-natal deaths during the year.

DIARRHOEA

There was 1 case of diarrhoea among children under 2 years. The rate per 1,000 live births is 1.9 as compared with 5.2 for England and Wales.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 22 male and 22 female deaths during the year, making a total of 44 as against 61 for 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

During the year, the following cases were notified:-

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Rate per 1,000 population	Rate for England and Wales.	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	24	0.8	2.19	-
Diphtheria	60	2.1	1.05	3
Pneumonia	44	1.5	1.07	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	0.2	-	2
Erysipelas	6	0.2	0.3	-
Cerebro-Spinal F.	11	0.4	0.14	-
Enteric Fever	-	0.0	0.01	-
Measles	116	4.0	7.46	-
Whooping Cough	69	2.4	1.73	2
<u>Totals.</u>	<u>336</u>			<u>28</u>

It will be noticed in the above table that the total number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis, have diminished, the total number of cases being 366 compared with 600 last year. The number of deaths is 28 as compared with 31 for 1941. With the exception of Erysipelas, there have been substantial reductions in every one of the notifiable infectious diseases, and it is especially gratifying to note the reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria from 106 in 1941 to 60 in 1942. The number of deaths from Diphtheria was 3 as compared with 1 in 1941. The case rate per 1,000 population is 2.1 as against 1.05 for England and Wales.

IMMUNISATIONS

During the year, the following cases were dealt with:-

	Age 0 - 5	Age 5 - 15	Age Over 15	Total.
No. completed during the year..	413	1,027	9	1,449
No. not completed at end of year.....				728

Reference to the campaign of immunisations has been made in the

preface to this report. During the year, special emphasis was paid to the children attending the Elementary Schools and also Secondary Schools, but during the year, the Ministry of Health have circularised the Authorities with a view of greater attention being paid by the Health Visitors to the granting of suitable advice to mothers to have their children immunised at the age of twelve months. This has been carried out in the Borough, and I am informed by the Health Visitors, that it is surprising the number of children stated by the mothers to have been immunised, but there is still a large amount of prejudice still existing as instanced by the trivial excuses for not having the children done, or for delaying consent.

It is of interest to note, however, that the number of children under five who have been immunised total 413 compared with 147 for the previous year, but though the figures have been nearly trebled, there is still a large amount of work to be done if the ideal of total 100 per cent immunisations is to be effected.

It is unfortunate from one point of view that so much emphasis is paid to the percentage of children immunised, in that this has led to a certain amount of discussion in the County Council meeting, certain members of whom are only too willing to deprecate the work of the Borough, and they certainly do not recognise the difficulty with which we have to contend in view of the large amount of prejudice that still exists. The chief criterion of any campaign such as this, is not so much the actual percentage, but whether the campaign itself has been fully justified as indicated by a diminution in the number of cases of Diphtheria especially in the ages where children are more susceptible, and I have already referred to the fact that the percentage decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria during the year, is 40 per cent. There are indications that the position is even better than has been stated seeing that there appears to be a change in the age incidence in the patients admitted to the Fever Hospital. At the present moment, and for the last 18 months a larger number adolescents have been admitted and these have not been immunised. In 1941, out of 106 cases, 54 were children of school age, but in 1942, out of 60 cases, 25 were of school age.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was 24 as compared with 38 in 1941. There were no deaths during the year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 0.8 as compared with 2.19 for England and Wales. The cases, taken as a whole, were extremely mild in nature.

PNEUMONIA

The total number of cases of Pneumonia notified during the year was 44 as compared with 57 in 1941. There were 21 deaths as compared with 24 in 1941. The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.5 as compared with 1.9 in 1941 and as compared with 1.07 for England and Wales.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

There was one case notified during the year.

SMALLPOX

There were no cases notified during the year

VACCINATION - STATISTICS FOR THE WREXHAM BOROUGH

Total Births.....	501.
Successfully vaccinated.....	142
Insusceptible.....	3
No. had Smallpox.....	-
Conscientious Objectors.....	123
Died Unvaccinated.....	27
Postponed by medical certificate.....	-
Removed.....	185
Unaccounted for.....	10

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ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Six cases were notified during the year as compared with 12 in 1941. There were 2 deaths from Puerperal Pyrexia, but no deaths from other maternal causes.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

The epidemic of Cerebro-spinal Fever, or Spotted Fever, continued during the year, but there were still fewer cases than in 1941, and up to the time of preparation of this report, there are definite indications that as far as the Borough is concerned, the epidemic has now ceased.

During the year, there were 11 cases, 2 of whom were non-civilian and it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths.

Of the cases, one was a member of the A.F.S. admitted from the Emergency Hospital. Three were admitted from the War Memorial Hospital, one being a Borough case and 2 being rural cases. Thus there were only 8 actual Borough residents suffering from this disease admitted to the Fever Hospital. One other non-civilian case was admitted from the Emergency Hospital, but was found not to be suffering from C.S.F., but was suffering from Pneumonia complicated by meningitis from which he died.

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TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1942.

NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
22	17	9	8	5	7	2	3
39		17		12		5	

FEVER HOSPITAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

BOROUGH CASES

Remaining in Hospital, 31st December, 1941.

Scarlet Fever.....	2
Diphtheria.....	8
C.S.F.....	1
Observation Erysipelas.....	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>12</u>

Admitted during the year 1942.

Scarlet Fever.....	18
Diphtheria.....	59
Observation Diphtheria.....	4
Paratyphoid.....	1
C.S.F.....	11
Erysipelas.....	2
Puerperal Septicaemia.....	2
Pneumococcal Meningitis.....	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>98</u>

Discharged during the year 1942.

Scarlet Fever.....	20
Diphtheria.....	59
Observation Diphtheria.....	4
Paratyphoid.....	1
C.S.F.....	12
Erysipelas.....	2
Puerperal Septicaemia.....	2
<u>Total</u>	<u>100</u>

Deaths in Hospital during 1942.

Diphtheria.....	5
Erysipelas.....	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>6</u>

Remaining in Hospital, 31st December, 1942.

Diphtheria.....	3
Pneumococcal Meningitis.....	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>4</u>

SWABS

Negative..... 130 Positive..... 9 Total..... 139

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

No. of mothers with babies attending Centre.....	923
Total attendance of mothers with babies.....	9,248
Average sessional attendance (per baby).....	10.0
Average sessional attendance.....	91.5
No. of medical consultations.....	1,487
Ante-natal cases.....	241
Ante-natal attendances.....	890
Post-natal cases.....	12
Post-natal attendances.....	16

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The above table indicates that there was an increase of 73 in the number of mothers attending the Centre whereas the total attendances increased from 8,415 to 9,248. The number of medical consultations has shown a slight decrease. What is most satisfactory to note is the increase in the number of cases of ante-natal patients. This number has increased from 185 to 241, whereas the attendances of these cases have risen from 787 to 890.

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ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The following table shows the number of children under the age of five, treated at the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year.

On books 1st January, 1942.....	36
No. admitted during the year.....	20
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Total treated.....	56
No. discharged.....	17
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On active treatment, 31st Dec., 1942.....	39
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Total No. of attendances during the year....	107
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Six children, on attaining the age of five, were transferred to the group under the School Medical Service

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NUTRITION

As in the previous year, the Health Department has co-operated with the Ministry of Food in the Distribution of Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, and Vitamin C preparations. This is being extended at the present moment to Vitamin A and D capsules which are being distributed to the ante-natal cases instead of the Cod Liver Oil, seeing that it is more palatable and more easily digested and absorbed. Undoubtedly this co-operation has been of the utmost value to the officials of the Ministry of Food, and at the same time we benefit by the wider knowledge of the Maternity and Child Welfare which has come about through the issue of these preparations.

I have already referred in my preface to the opening of the British Restaurant at Spring Lodge in the old 17th century Barn which has been converted into a most useful centre in the very hub of a large housing estate which catered especially for families which had been removed from previously condemned houses in all parts of the Borough. It is also in close proximity to a neighbouring housing estate and during the first few months at least, has been of the utmost value. It has catered for meals which have been taken away on a cash and carry basis and good use has been made of these facilities.

Towards the end of the year, arrangements were being made for the construction of a new British Restaurant in the middle of the town.

The Scheme for free meals and free milk has been amplified during the year by the arrangements for the construction of a Central Kitchen and for the feeding of the children in the Centre in Tuttle Street, and also where possible in the Schools. This scheme came into force in 1943.

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WAR-TIME NURSERY

Our first War-Time Nursery was opened in the latter weeks of 1941 and at first very little use was made of the facilities offered to the mothers who wished to leave their children while they were on work of national importance, but it is satisfactory to note that during the year the attendances have shown a progressive increase and it has been found necessary to arrange for an additional unit to be constructed at Abbotsfield and also for a new unit to be constructed in Holt Road where it will serve the purpose of two large housing estates and is situated on the bus route to the local factory.

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SALVAGE

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department and a large amount of discussion has taken place in the meetings of the Health Committee in reference thereto. The success of the Scheme has been mitigated by the non-removal of collections of baled tins and other scrap material which have accumulated and there is evidence to indicate the public is not so 'salvage-minded' at the present moment as was the case when the Scheme commenced.

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There is little that need be stated about the question of Sewage Disposal in the Borough, though certain alterations have had to be carried out at the Sewage Works in Five Fords. The sewage effluents have been examined periodically of late and all of them have been satisfactory.

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WATER SUPPLIES

Four samples of water were taken during the year and examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Conway and all were found to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES (Swimming Baths).

During the year, 3 samples of water were taken. One sample taken on the 16th September from the bath which had been refilled on the 6th September was unsatisfactory and was not up to standard for a treated water, and it was reported that further purification was necessary.

The second sample was taken on the same day, but from the bath which was refilled on the 14th September. This was even worse than the other sample and was certainly unsatisfactory without treatment.

The third sample was taken from unfiltered chlorinated water from the Swimming Baths on the 4th December, and was found to be very satisfactory.

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AMBULANCE FACILITIES

- (a) INFECTIOUS CASES - Motor ambulance attached to the Wrexham Fever Hospital.
- (b) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES - Motor Ambulances attached to the St. John Ambulance Association - Wrexham Branch.

The following report has been received from the Honorary Secretary of the Local Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Number of cases carried.....	2,547
Number of road accidents.....	131
Total cases.....	2,678
Total number of cases where first aid was rendered.....	237
Total Mileage.....	18,968
Public functions attended.....	332
Attendances at functions number.....	979
Total hours of duty given voluntarily by men.....	13,471
(excluding A.R.P. duties)	

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1942.

TO:- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE - BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Sixth Annual Report upon the work performed by your Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the Sanitary and Housing Administration and the supervision of food supplies within the Borough during the year 1942.

The Report is presented principally in tabular form with short reports upon the administrative activities. It has been somewhat curtailed on grounds of economy but provides a comprehensive survey of work accomplished during the year under review. Essential services have been maintained and much time has been devoted to the inspection of Meat, Milk and Other Food supplies. From July onwards the amount of meat to be inspected at the Municipal Abattoir was increased by approximately 20 per cent. In addition to the usual duties of the Department, certain work has been performed in connection with Civil Defence, in particular the organization of services to deal with Food Decontamination and Emergency Mortuary Local and Regional Mobile Teams, the latter being organized at the special request of the Ministry of Health.

Fortunately there were no staff changes in the Department during the year.

I again express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to Dr. T. P. Edwards and other Officers of the Corporation for their consideration and help, and to my staff for their willing co-operation and hard work.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

L.A.STROUD, D.P.A., M.R.S.I.,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL SUMMARY

Table No. 1.

	1941	1942
Total Inspections.....	15,860	19,963
Number of complaints received.....	311	385
Preliminary Notices served.....	345	298
Statutory Notices served.....	150	89
Total number of letters received		
by the Department.....	796	745
Total number of letters despatched		
by the Department.....	899	964
Interviews with Builders, Owners		
and Agents.....	504	480

ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

GENERAL SANITARY WORK

Visits re:-

Accumulations.....	225	Keeping of Animals.....	89
Ashpits and Ashbins.....	496	Moveable Dwellings.....	213
Cesspools.....	1,154	Offensive Trades.....	87
Closets - Water.....	367	Public & Private Conveniences.	24
- Privy or Pail.	268	Rag Flock Acts	
Common Lodging Houses:-		Inspections.....	4
Day.....	391	Samples.....	2
Night.....	9	Rats and Mice.....	675
Complaints.....	387	Schools.....	5
Dirty Houses.....	30	Shops Acts.....	108
Drains -Existing.....	533	Verminous Premises.....	111

GENERAL SANITARY WORK (Cont'd)

Visits re:-

Drains - Obstructed.....	227	Water Supply.....	4
- Relaid.....	96	Water Samples.....	6
- Water Tested.....	33	Miscellaneous Visits...	2,620
- Smoke Tested.....	40		
Houses-let-in-lodgings.....	2		
Infectious Diseases.....	131		

HOUSING

Houses Inspected.....	402	Overcrowding.....	192
Houses Re-inspected.....	1,821	Vacant Council Houses...	21
House-to-house inspection.	211	Miscellaneous.....	123

FACTORIES, etc.

Factories - Mechanical...	77	Bakehouses - Mechanical...	146
- Non-Mechanical	34	Outworkers.....	6
Domestic Factories.....	2	Workplaces.....	43
Bakehouses - Mechanical..	104		

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Municipal Abattoir (day),	2,892	Food Preparation Premises	160
Municipal Abattoir (evening)	336	Markets.....	189
Private Slaughterhouses..	16	Dairies.....	405
Meat and Food Inspections:		Cowsheds and Farms.....	291
Day.....	2,490	Street Vendors of Food..	5
Evening.....	258	Ice Cream Premises.....	3
Shops:- Meat.....	65	Samples - Milk (Bact.)..	155
Fish.....	57	- Milk (Biol.)..	44
Fried Fish.....	75	- Food and Drugs.	83
General Provisions..	197		
Other.....	60		

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

DWELLING HOUSES

Table No. 3.

Cleansed and Decorated..	11	Rain-water gutters and downspouts repaired..	38
Roofs repaired.....	45	Yard surfaces repaired or relaid.....	15
Walls repaired.....	89	Yard drainage improved.	13
Floors repaired.....	4	Sufficient water supply provided.....	2
Ceilings repaired.....	26	Nuisances from animals abated.....	2
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt.....	4	Offensive accumulations removed.....	20
Firegrates repaired or renewed.....	16	Vermipous premises disinfested by the Corporation.....	22
Washing Boilers repaired or renewed.....	18		
Doors and windows repaired or renewed....	56		
Dampness remedied.....	27		

DRAINAGE

Drains constructed or reconstructed.....	13	Drains repaired or cleansed...	74
Tests to existing drains...	26	Drains disconnected from sewer	1
New sinks fixed.....	8	Drains new inspection chambers	5
Sink waste pipes - trapped.	15	Drains ventilated.....	1
Soil and ventilating pipes renewed.....	4	Drains additional gullies.....	21

WATER CLOSETS

Cleaned and lime washed....	43	Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed.....	74
Repaired or reconstructed..	35	Provided with a supply of water.....	68
Pedestal wash-down W.C. basins fixed.....	26		

ASHPITS

Abolished.....	6	Portable dustbins provided...	47
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COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Contravention of Byelaws...	8
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DAIRIES

Cleansed and lime washed....	19
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COWSHEDS

Cleansed and lime washed....	4
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ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS' PREMISES

Cleansed and lime washed....	4
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FRIED FISH SHOPS

Improvements.....	6	Nuisances abated.....	6
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OFFENSIVE TRADES

Cleansed and lime washed....	2	Nuisances abated.....	2
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PREMISES USED FOR PREPARATION OF FOOD

Cleansed and lime washed....	17
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FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Cleansed and lime washed....	25	Lighting and ventilation improved.....	5
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.....	4	Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes.....	1

SHOPS

Lighting and heating improved.....	9	Facilities provided for taking meals.....	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation.....	2		

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Rooms disinfected..... 227 Library books destroyed
Articles disinfected by or disinfected 60
steam..... 225

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PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are seven Common Lodging Houses affording accommodation for eighty-six persons in twenty-nine rooms including one house for accommodating married couples which was discontinued at the end of the year. One application for a new registration was received in respect of premises used as a Common Lodging House. The premises were kept under close supervision being periodically visited and during the year 391 day and 9 night inspections were made for that purpose.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS

Few premises within the Borough are used as houses-let-in-lodgings.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year a review was taken of unregulated camping of moveable dwellings within the Borough and following informal action applications were received for the licencing of eight sites as camping sites for moveable dwellings, licences being granted subject to certain conditions approved by the Health Committee to ensure proper regulated camping. Two hundred and thirteen visits were made in respect of camping with tents and caravans in various parts of the Borough. In several instances camping on unlicensed sites for periods in excess of the statutory limitation ceased on informal action being taken.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Eighty-seven inspections were made in supervising the following Offensive Trades carried on within the Borough viz:-

- (a) 1 gut scraper.
- (b) 3 tripe boilers.
- (c) 1 fellmonger, tanner and leather dresser.
- (d) 3 rag and bone dealers.

FISH FRYER

There are 20 premises on the register but in several instances business was discontinued during the year. One new premises, was however, occupied. Seventy-five inspections were made and the premises were on the whole found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES (PRIVATE)

The three private slaughterhouses within the Borough have not been in use for the slaughtering of animals since the Ministry of Food Meat and Livestock Scheme came into operation in January, 1940. They are, however, being reserved for use in emergency.

MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

The Abattoir has continued to be used by the Ministry of Food as a Slaughtering and Meat Distribution Centre for the third year in succession. As from the 1st August meat was supplied for an additional

population of some 20,000 persons residing in the districts of Llangollen, Chirk, Cefn Mawr and Ruabon. It is estimated that meat is now supplied for a population of some 130,000 inhabitants of the district.

The Municipal Abattoir Trading Account for the year ended the 31st March, 1942 showed a deficit of £592. This includes the cost of additional equipment.

PLACES WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT

Eighty-nine inspections were made in connection with the keeping of swine and other animals. Few complaints were received.

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Much time was spent in supervising reconstruction work and improvements in connection with the drainage systems of buildings. The drains of several premises have been reconstructed during the year in addition to many minor amendments of drainage systems. Thirty-three water-tests and 40 smoke-tests were applied to drains, soil and ventilating pipes. Much time was also spent in supervising those premises on the outskirts of the Borough which are provided with cesspools. Consideration was given during the year to the provision of a sewer to houses in the Little Acton Area.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

At the request of the Ministry of Home Security (Smoke Division) no action was taken in connection with smoke abatement during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

Four inspections were made and two samples of rag flock, procured from firms using rag flock in bedding and upholstery manufacture, were submitted for analysis. Both samples were certified to comply with the standard of cleanliness prescribed in the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912.

RIVER POLLUTION

Inspections of the streams within the Borough were made from time to time during the year. No nuisances were observed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Investigations were made into the following notifiable diseases:-

Scarlet Fever.....	22	Diphtheria.....	63
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	12	Other Infectious Diseases...	15

227 rooms were disinfected by fumigation and formalin spraying; 225 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected by steam; 60 library and other books were disinfected or destroyed following cases of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS ETC.

Forty-five complaints were received and 111 inspections made of dwelling-houses infested with bed bugs and other vermin. Four notices were served upon owners or occupiers of houses and disinfection work was carried out by the Department at 10 Corporation owned houses and 11 privately owned houses.

Inspection is made of all Council houses becoming vacant for the detection of verminous infestation, 21 being inspected during the year.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

No complaints were received regarding the sanitary conditions of places of entertainment.

SHOPS ACTS 1912 to 1937

One hundred and eight shops were inspected under the provisions of the Shops Acts, and 12 improvements were effected to comply with Section 10 of the Shops Acts, 1934, relating to the provision of suitable means of ventilation, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and facilities for taking of meals and a total of 43 improvements were effected.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION ETC. OF OFFICES

No complaints regarding offices were received during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Reconditioning of working-class houses has continued particularly in cases of complaint. 613 inspections and 821 re-inspections were made. 160 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 22 Statutory Notices, requiring the execution of repairs under Section 9 of the Act, were served. Increasing difficulty continues to be experienced in securing the prompt execution of repair work owing to the shortage of labour and material.

OVERCROWDING

As I observed in my last Annual Report it is difficult to accurately assess the position as to overcrowding within the Borough owing to the abnormal movement of the population. There is, however, reason to believe that apart from certain cases dealt with by the Department, there is little excessive overcrowding having regard to the standard of the Housing Act, 1926. Twenty notices to abate overcrowding were served.

REHOUSING OF HOMELESS FAMILIES

Six privately owned and 30 Corporation condemned houses have been reconditioned, as a temporary measure to provide accommodation for persons rendered homeless by enemy action. Further condemned houses are being similarly dealt with.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

MILK AND DAIRIES

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk is 32 and as retail purveyors, 43. There are 20 registered cowkeepers with approximately 350 cows, and 50 dairies and milk shops.

Twelve Dealers' Licences and one Supplementary Licence were issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED MILK

During 1942 there were 154 samples of milk submitted by this Department for Bacteriological examination as compared with 151 in 1941 including samples of milk produced or sold under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Of these 79 samples were of milk produced within the Borough; and 35 samples were of Pasteurised Milk supplied to Elementary School children.

Analysis of the results shows that of the total samples taken 4.5% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with 5.3% in 1941; and as regards designated milks 2.4% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with 6.3% in 1941.

Summarized, the results were as follows:-

<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
13 - Tuberculin Tested Milk.	12 complied with and one did not comply with prescribed conditions.
67 - Accredited Milk.	66 complied with and one did not comply with prescribed conditions.
43 - Pasteurised Milk.	42 complied with and one did not comply with prescribed conditions.
31 - Non-Designated Milk.	27 were reported to be satisfactory 4 were reported to be unsatisfactory.

Two samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test and gave satisfactory results.

BIOLOGICAL TESTING OF MILK FOR THE PRESENCE OF TUBERCLE BACILLI

Forty-four samples of designated and non-designated milks were submitted for Biological testing, as compared with 48 in 1941. Two of the samples or 4.5% gave positive results and these cases were investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE-CREAM

There are 30 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 at which ice-cream may be manufactured or sold. The manufacture of ice-cream was prohibited as from the 1st August, 1942 as a war-time measure.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF PRESERVED FOOD

Under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there are 25 premises now on the Register for use for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food; 160 inspections of registered premises were made.

MEAT INSPECTIONS

I have again to record the inspection of 100% of the animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir, and in addition, meat sent to the Abattoir from other slaughtering centres for distribution, and imported meat. The total number of animal carcasses inspected during the year was 77,885 (excluding imported meat). Details are given in Tables 4, 5 and 6.

Table No. 4.

CARCASSES INSPECTED
CARCASSES INSPECTED

	CATTLE excluding cows.	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
No. Slaughtered	2,282	2,173	5,543	60,141	6,637
No. Inspected.	2,288	2,177	5,568	61,213	6,639
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	49	24	34	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	190	404	31	2,480	418
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	8.58%	29.8%	0.98%	4.1%	6.52%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	9	104	7	-	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	164	659	8	-	672
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	7.56%	34.04%	0.26%	-	10.5%

Table No. 5.

IMPORTED MEAT DISTRIBUTED FROM THE ABATTOIR

CARCASSES OF MUTTON	QUARTERS OF BEEF	CARCASSES OF PORK	OTHER MEAT AND OFFAL
24,929	989	622	869,683 lbs.

UN SOUND FOOD

The total weight of Meat and other Foods deemed to be unfit for human consumption amounted to 78 tons, 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 23 lbs.

Four formal seizures of unsound food were made during the year.

Table No. 6.

TOTAL WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT

	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES.		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Carcases or parts of carcasses.	728	2	17	200	3	24
Organs.	356	3	4	186	-	9
<u>TOTALS</u>	1,085	1	21	387	-	5

Table No. 7

CANNED AND OTHER FOODS ETC. CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

lbs.

CANNED FOODS.	PRESERVES.	FISH.	BACON.	CEREALS.	VEGETABLES.	CHEESE.	MISC.
4,858	715	1,983	84	1,802	217	221	225

TOTAL WEIGHT:- 10,105 lbs.

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SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

At 31st December, 1942, 28 slaughtering licences issued by the Corporation were in force. The provisions of the Act have been well observed.

RETAIL MARKETS

One hundred and eighty-nine inspections were made to Food Stalls at which meat and other articles of food for human consumption are sold in the Butchers', General, and Vegetable retail markets, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - ADULTERATION

A total of 83 samples of foods and drugs were submitted by the Corporation for chemical analysis during the year this being equivalent to 2.9 samples per 1,000 of the population. Of these samples 72 were certified to be genuine and free from prohibited preservatives, colouring matter and excessive amounts of extraneous dirt. Five samples of milk showed deficiencies in solids-not-fat but the Hortvet Freezing-Point test showed no evidence of added water.

The articles sampled were as follows:-

Milk	-	54	Margarine	-	4
Butter	-	2	Pudding Mixture	-	1
Coffee	-	2	Self-Raising Flour	-	3
Egg substitute	-	1	Sausage	-	4
Ground Ginger	-	1	Tea	-	2
Jam	-	2	White Pepper	-	1
Lard	-	2	Drugs	-	4

In addition to the above samples several samples of milk procured for other tests were also informally examined for fat and non-fatty solids content. The quality of milk sold in the town from a chemical point of view continued to be good, the average composition of the milk samples being Fat 3.70% and Solids-not-Fat 8.77%.

It was not found necessary to institute summary proceedings in respect of any sample. The vendors of 2 samples of milk deficient in fat appeared before the Health Committee and 3 other vendors were warned. Further samples proved satisfactory. One sample of jam was slightly deficient in fruit content and in the case of one sample of sausage the declaration regarding the presence of preservatives was not conspicuously exhibited.

I am indebted to Mr. B. Wynne Griffiths, Inspector of Weights and Measures for information of the operation of the Act within the Borough by

the Denbighshire County Council which shows that there were 45 samples taken during 1942, this being equivalent to 1.6 per 1,000 of the population. They were as follows:-

Milk	-	30	Foods	-	14	Spirits	-	1
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FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

412 inspections were made of factories and workplaces including bakehouses. 34 Informal Notices were served to remedy unsatisfactory conditions and 35 improvements were effected.

Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS.

No applications were received for certificates under these Acts.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Seventy-three notifications of Rat and Mice Infestation were received by the Department during the year. A total of 675 visits were made in respect of Rat Infestation, in addition to the work of the outdoor assistant. In no instance was it found necessary to serve a Statutory Notice under the Act.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN DEFAULT OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39	-	35 Frances Avenue	
		Drainage repairs	- £2. 0. 0d.
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9.	-	23 Maesgwd Rd.	- £24. 0. 0d.
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9.	-	10 Lambpit St.	- £35. 0. 0d.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

1. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 2.
Sale of meal unfit for human consumption - Defendant convicted and fined £5. and £6. 6. 0d. costs.
2. Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 9.
Possession of fruit intended for sale unfit for human consumption. Two Defendants were convicted and fined £10. and £3. respectively, and 5/-d costs.
3. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 246.
Keeping unregistered premises as a Common Lodging House. Defendant convicted and fined £1. and £2. 2. 0d. costs.
4. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 246.
Keeping unregistered premises as a Common Lodging House. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs, the necessary works having been executed.
5. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 246.
Keeping unregistered premises as a Common Lodging House. Summons withdrawn on payment of costs, the necessary works having been executed.